



MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume IV Issue II

April, 2006

Fair creates family memories

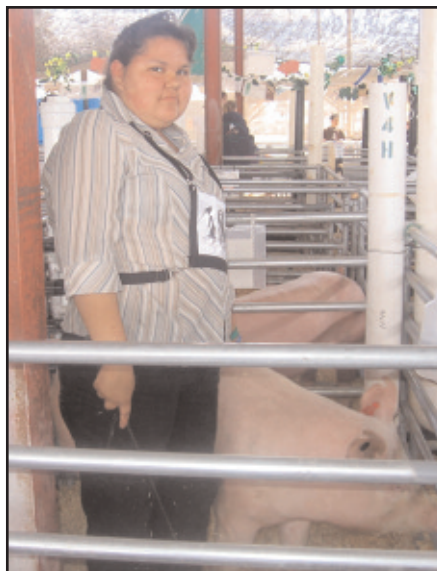


It was family fun all around during the La Paz County Fair, which was held from March 16-19 at Manataba Park.

Thousands of area residents attended the festivities, which included carnival rides, music and entertainment, livestock shows and a variety of different food booths.

The fair also offered information booths and products from local and out of town businesses.

The *Manataba Messenger* was there to capture memories from this year's event. For more photos and coverage of the La Paz County Fair, please see Pages 6 of this issue.



(Above) Tribal members and visitors from throughout the area enjoy the rides and games on the La Paz County Fair midway on a Saturday afternoon.

(Left) Clementina Feltrop with her pig Lucy Goosey at the La Paz County Fair Livestock Show.

Tribal efforts to fight meth use continue

CRIT secures grant from State of Arizona; coalition formed to curb use

CRIT's efforts to curb meth use on the reservation have received a couple of significant boosts.

Governor Janet Napolitano's Office of Children, Youth & Families has awarded CRIT a \$20,000 "Phase I" grant to help Tribal efforts to combat meth use, including providing funding

"We decided we needed to look at young kids in school and educate them about the dangers of meth use."

**— David Harper
Program Manager
CRIT Alcohol &
Substance Abuse
Program**

for education and planning for CRIT staff members whose jobs include fighting drugs on the reservation.

The grant is part of a partnership between the Governor's Office and Tribal and government agencies throughout the state to combat meth use.

Additionally, CRIT has put together a Tribal Meth Coalition, with the goal of coordinating efforts between Tribal departments and other agencies to fight the spread of meth use and manufacturing.

Councilwoman Cindy Homer spearheaded the effort to establish the coalition, which

Please see METH, Page 12

Rains do little to ease fire danger

Closures to reservation lands to curb fire risk possible in summer months

Recent rains have done little to curb the wildfire danger on the CRIT reservation and in the region as a whole — in fact, they may have made the situation worse.

CRIT Fire Chief Terrilynn Little said that while the rains are helpful in the short term in lessening the fire danger, they could create problems down the road by encouraging the growth of smaller grasses and underbrush.

When those new grasses and brush dry out

when the weather gets warmer, they turn into fuel for a potential wild fire.

"Usually the rain is bad because it starts this undergrowth of smaller grasses," Little said. "Then people throw cigarettes out of their cars or something like that and it causes a fire."

Little said that despite the rains, Arizona remains on the top of the list of states with dangerous wildfire conditions right now.

And with Arizona's traditionally driest months on tap, conditions are likely to remain conducive for wildfires at least until the Monsoon

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News, information from your Tribal Government

Businesses disrespect our people

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh
Tribal Council: Sylvia “Cindy” Homer (Secretary),
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,
Ray Aspa, Sr., Herman “TJ” Laffoon,
Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Fernando “Bo” Flores

Economic development continues on reservation

CRIT continues to enjoy the benefits of a diverse economic development trend in the area. Last issue, we told you about the grant for the new ag cooler, and updated you on the progress of the new Wal-Mart shopping center. Work also continues on a possible new gaming facility in Blythe, California.

This issue, more good news, as the Safeway store in Parker’s Moovalya Plaza is being upgraded to serve the community better, and three new dining establishments are opening their doors in the center.

The more diversified our economic base becomes, and the more new economic development opportunities that come to the Parker area, the better off Tribal members will be. These opportunities mean more jobs for Tribal members and more tax revenues for critical Tribal services.

CRIT is also ensuring that Tribal members benefit as much as possible from this economic development by enforcing its business and professions codes, so that new and existing businesses obtain the proper business licenses if they do business on the CRIT reservation.

Economic development — beyond the scope of gaming and retail — will always be a priority of the Tribal Council and Tribal Government. It’s the best way for CRIT and its members to ensure their independence and sovereignty over time.

And if recent developments are any indication, the CRIT reservation and the Parker area are certainly moving in the right direction.

Truancy a key issue for the future of Tribal children

In cooperation with other local agencies, CRIT is cracking down on truancy among Tribal students and their families.

It’s a common sense issue — in order for Tribal members to become educated and have the best chance for success in the future, they have to stay in school.

But there’s more to it than just education. By making sure students stay in school, we can keep dropout rates lower, prevent the spread of crime and gangs among our youth, and prevent a host of other issues from taking root among our children.

CRIT is working with local schools and government agencies to address the issue. But while these agencies’ efforts are helpful in addressing the problem, ultimately, the best defense against truancy starts at home.

We encourage Tribal parents to instill in their children the value of education and the need to attend class regularly. Your children will thank you later for it.

Recently, California State Assemblyman Bill Maze and Mayor Sam Heeringa of Parker raised questions about CRIT’s status in California. However, those questions are easily addressed.

Several acts of Congress, including most recently the Colorado River Indian Reservation Boundary Correction Act passed last year, have clearly established and reaffirmed that CRIT’s lands extend into California.

And there’s no question that CRIT has the authority to enforce its own laws, codes and ordinances on its own lands.

That authority includes the ability to regulate business activity on tribal land through business license fees and taxation, which is what originally brought Maze’s concerns to light. Similar taxes and business license fees are levied by countless Arizona and California cities and towns.

This issue is simple. The Tribes have the right, authority and obligation to regulate the activities of those who choose to enter upon and conduct business on tribal lands.

The overwhelming majority of people doing business on the Reservation are in compliance with tribal law.

In fact, we are aware of only six businesses, out of the more than five hundred doing business on the Reservation, located in Big River and the Town of Parker that are not in compliance with Tribal business codes. Rather than complying, these businesses have chosen to disregard tribal law and disrespect the sovereignty and the people of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

CRIT’s authority to make its own laws and enforce those laws on its lands is supported by a wide variety of federal laws and court rulings.

It is unfortunate that these individuals in the Big River development have chosen to fabricate questions about CRIT’s authority rather than owning up to their responsibility to comply with

tribal laws just as other Big River businesses are doing.

CRIT will continue to enforce its laws and ordinances on its lands, including those lands in California.

The businesses which chose to disregard our sovereignty and laws and disrespect our members are One Stop Hair Shop, The Dock Restaurant, Dumas Walker Bar and Grill, Domino’s Pizza and Davis Building Supply. These businesses seek to deny our people the much-needed funds we use for juvenile services, education, elder services and health care.

These businesses also disrespect the more than five hundred law-abiding businesses on the Reservation lands whose business we value and appreciate.

It is the very definition of hypocrisy for those businesses located in Big River to contest our nominal business license fee of \$100 per year in the name of some uncertainty about the status of our lands while at the same time paying us a yearly lease payment to locate their business on those lands.

It would be one thing if businesses in the Town of Parker limited their business activities to the fee lands within the Town, it is quite another thing when those businesses choose to bring and conduct their business activities on tribal lands. In that case, the Tribe has the clear authority, under both tribal and federal law, to regulate the business activities of those who choose to conduct business on tribal lands

In the future we hope Assemblyman Maze and Mayor Heeringa rather than representing the interests of those who would ignore tribal laws and ordinances, will instead represent the legitimate interests and concerns of all their constituents, including law-abiding Tribal members and non-Tribal members on the CRIT Reservation, including those in the Town of Parker.

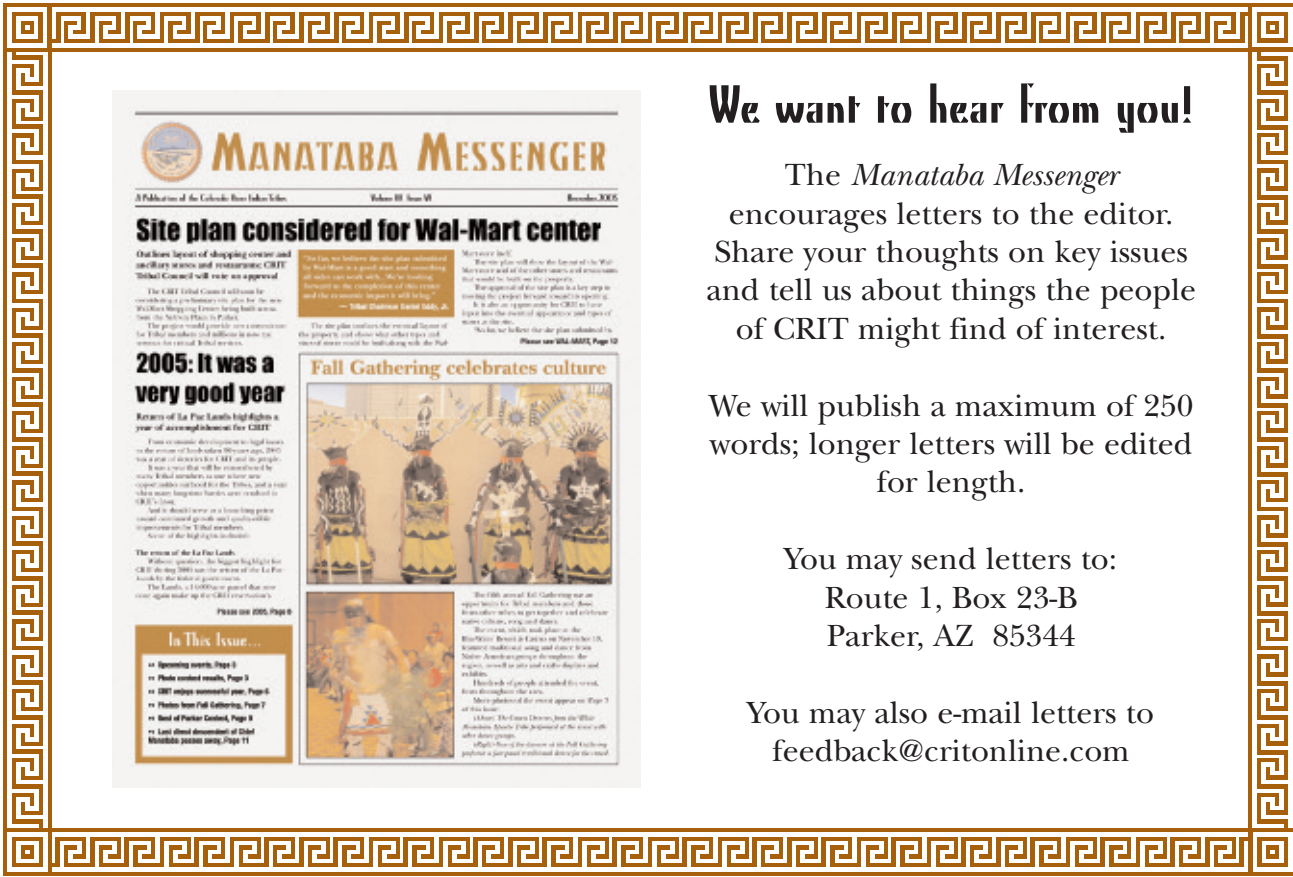
We want to hear from you!

The *Manataba Messenger* encourages letters to the editor. Share your thoughts on key issues and tell us about things the people of CRIT might find of interest.

We will publish a maximum of 250 words; longer letters will be edited for length.

You may send letters to:
Route 1, Box 23-B
Parker, AZ 85344

You may also e-mail letters to feedback@critonline.com



April photo contest garners diverse photographs



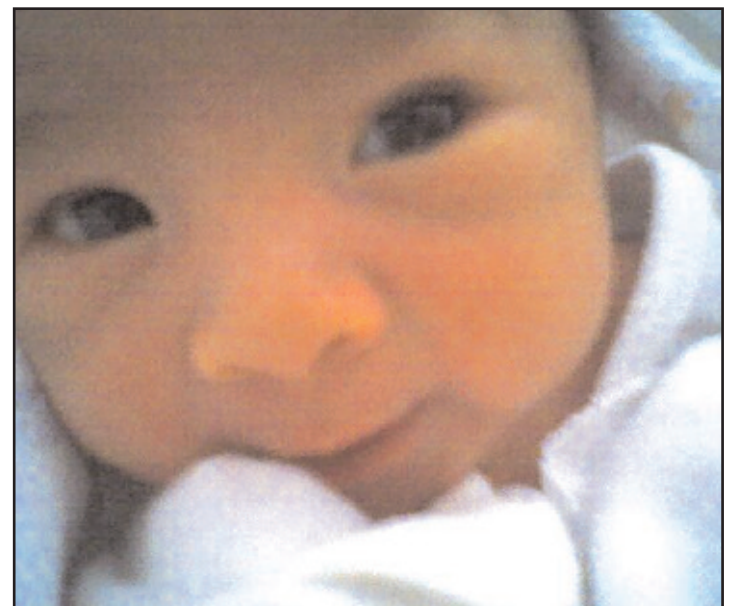
Submit now, win in June

First place in the *Manataba Messenger* April photo contest goes to Stephanie Enas for her photo of Guillermo “Billy” Escoto at the start of the 2006 Best of the Desert Mini-Quad Race (above). She will receive \$100.

Second place went to Ryan Tahbo for his picture of Ambrie and Seneca Tahbo (top right). He will receive \$50. Third place went to LaToya Welch for her photo of masked Taliyah at a party (left). She will receive \$25.

Honorable mention went to Amelia Flores for a photo of her family (middle right), Angela Nez for her photo of granddaughter Gianni (bottom right), and Sierra Charles for her photo of Jayden Charles (bottom left).

The deadline for submissions for the June 1 issue is May 15. You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible. Send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn, 7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or just e-mail the entry to feedback@critonline.com.



Messenger Interviews...Congresswoman Mary Bono

Congresswoman Mary Bono represents the California portion of the CRIT Reservation in the U.S House of Representatives. She took the seat of her late husband, Sonny Bono, in 1998 after his death. She recently took time to answer questions for the *Manataba Messenger*.

Q: Why were you interested in running for Congress?

A: When my late husband, Sonny Bono, was in politics, I enjoyed working at his side. I felt I had a natural aptitude for public policy and had even considered running for public office on a local level. After Sonny's passing, my life was instantly turned upside down. As I was coping with the loss of a loved one, without my knowledge, my friends, family and supporters were already campaigning for me to fill Sonny's vacant seat in Congress.



Mary Bono

When the timing was right, I was approached with the possibility of running. I chose to run for Congress to be strong for my children, my family and for a district that loved Sonny and respected his work. As a Member of Congress, I wanted to carry out Sonny's legacy and begin carving one of my own.

Q: What committees do you serve on?

A: I serve on the Energy and Commerce

Committee, which has jurisdiction over issues such as energy, telecommunications, health care and the environment.

Within the committee, I sit on the following four subcommittees: Subcommittee on Health, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Subcommittee on the Environment and Hazardous Materials.

Q: In the years you have served, what are your proudest accomplishments?

A: I have established a history of excellent constituent service and a record of legislative accomplishments that includes establishing the Santa Rosa-San Jacinto National Monument; passing Country of Origin Labeling requirements to protect our local growers and consumers; resolving the Torres-Martinez tribe's long-standing dispute with the federal government over the loss of their ancestral lands; and securing critical funding for Salton Sea restoration, transportation projects, the Palm Springs International Airport radar system, health care and AIDS programs, wildfire suppression and disaster relief, domestic violence and homeless shelters, and many, many others.

I am proud of my reputation as a consensus builder who votes her conscience and is not beholden to any special interests.

I have worked hard to earn the respect of constituents and my colleagues in Congress and will continue to work diligently to provide the

people of the 45th district with a strong voice in Washington.

Q: The 45th district is a very diverse area. How do you keep up on all the different issues?

A: It is very important to me to stay connected with the district and the constituents I represent. Whenever possible, I visit the communities within the district and hear first-hand the challenges the residents are facing. Averaging two cross-country flights a week can be both mentally and physically exhausting, but worth the long travel.

I also have a tremendous staff based throughout the district that helps to keep me informed of issues facing the area.

Q: Are there any issues or legislation that will be coming up in the near future that will affect Native American Tribes?

A: There are several issues of note that Congress may consider in the near future that will affect Native American Tribes nationwide. In this session, we hope to improve access and quality of healthcare for Native Americans, develop sound lobbying reform that insures that tribes still have a voice in the democratic process and find a common-sense solution to "off reservation gaming." Next year, Congress is likely to address issues such as housing, education and tribal energy development.

Please see BONO, Page 5

Mother's Day is May 14th!



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Please see EVENTS, Page 10

A fair to remember — La Paz County Fair '06



(Top) Flo the Clown makes balloon animals for kids at the fair.

(Middle) The fair was enjoyed by thousands of people from the Parker area and beyond.

(Bottom left) The livestock show was one of the main events at the fair.

(Bottom right) An area youth dance group performs for the fair patrons.



SPEAK OUT

What's on Tribal Members' minds at the La Paz County Fair



Clementina Feltrop
"I am here with my pig Lucy Goosey, I enjoy washing her and showing her at the auction."



Alynah Mezan
"I like riding the rides and hanging out with my friends."



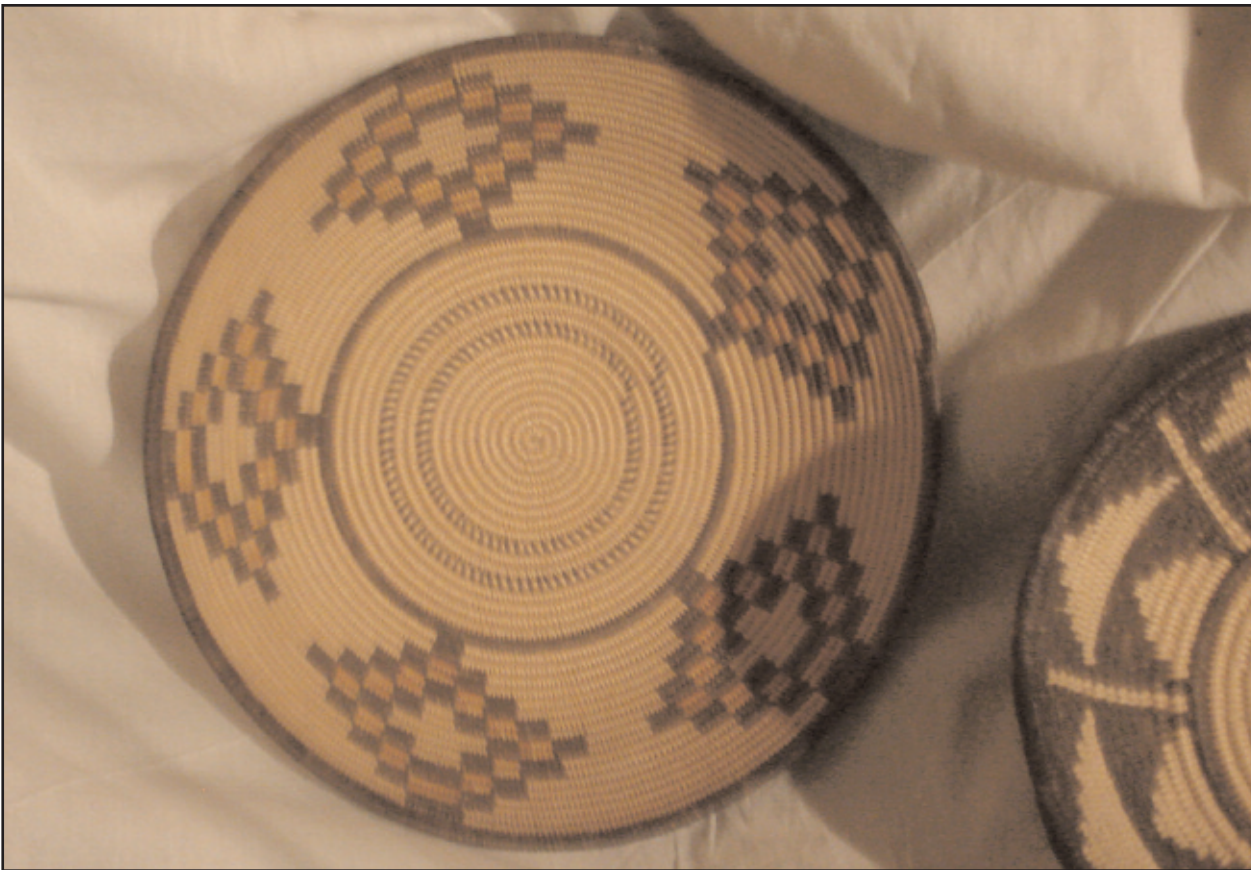
Mary, Eric & Sidney Hasnohorses
Mary: "I love riding the CraZY sWingS."
Eric: "I enjoy watching the shows, especially the Maya dance group."
Sidney: "I like to ride the Kite Flyer."



Mickey Johnson and Jullian Flores
"I like the corn dogs and tacos."



Museum spotlights CRIT “treasure”



The CRIT Museum has the world's largest collection of Chemehuevi baskets, highlighted by those created by the late Tribal member Mary Lou Brown, which have their own display in the 40-year-old museum.

Brown was named an “Arizona Indian Living Treasure” in 1992, and was recognized by then-Governor Fife Symington for her basket making.

Brown was taught basket making when she was a girl growing up in Needles, Calif. She made over 100 baskets, several of which are on display at the museum. She taught basket making at the Heard Museum in Phoenix and to members of her family as well, in order to make sure the tradition of Chemehuevi basket making continued.

While she has since passed away, Museum Director Michael Tsosie said her impact on Chemehuevi culture will continue.

“She taught quite a few people here — all the folks who make Chemehuevi baskets now more or less learned from her,” he said. “And she learned from her grandparents’ generation and passed it down, so it’s quite a tradition.”

40th Anniversary celebration scheduled

CRIT Museum is one of oldest Tribal museums in the country

The CRIT Museum is one of the oldest Tribal museums in the country, and will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a special event on Friday, April 28.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Museum.

It is open to the general public and all Tribal members. Food and refreshments will be served, and a variety of activities will take place to mark the 40th Anniversary.

The event will be a celebration of the CRIT Museum’s rich history of enhancing and preserving Tribal culture, language and art.



The CRIT Museum has a display highlighting the Chemehuevi baskets of Mary Lou Brown (above).

CRIT MUSEUM NOTES Celebrating the CRIT Museum’s 40th Anniversary

The museum was opened in 1966 in its current location, as part of the construction of the larger Tribal government complex. Herman Laffoon, Sr. was Tribal Chairman at the time.

Dr. & Mrs. Hatch and a dedicated community group were primarily responsible for the start up of the facility and the adjoining CRIT Library.

It is not only one of the oldest facilities of its kind in the country, it is also completely funded by Tribal revenue, rather than through grants or other means.

For more information on the 40th Anniversary celebration, call the Museum office at (928) 669-1272.

CRIT BRIEFS

News from around and outside the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation

Ase S’maav officially sanctioned by CRIT, celebrates Mega Throw

The CRIT Tribal Council has voted to make the Ase S’maav bird singing group an officially sanctioned organization of the Tribes.

The council also commended the group for its desire and efforts in carrying on the valuable tradition of singing bird songs. Ase S’maav had not asked for the official recommendation, but was recognized for its contribution to Tribal culture.

The group also held its second-annual Mega Throw event on January 21, under their self-built traditional ramada of mesquite and arrowheads. Lead bird singers from “Bird Country” were invited to sing throughout the day, leading to a full day of fun, dancing and sharing.

The group would like to thank Roland Golding, DC Bird Singers of Torres Martinez, Ah-Keel Singers and Dancers of Winterhaven, Calif., Intertribal Bird Singers of Pala, Pauma and Mexicali, Strong Hearts Native Society of San Pasqual High School in Winterhaven, Harry Halmond, Jr. and John Christman Vieijas.

Participating Ase S’maav members were Darwin “Titus” Welsh III (lead), Noah Charles, Tyrone Harper, Jr., John Yazzie, Lorenzo Tahbo, Jr., Jamahke Welsh, Tyler Eswonia, Ernie Enas, Michael “Hata” Morris, Orlando Short, Jr., Tristan Knox, Troy Townsend, Jr., Dusty Yazzie and Santiago Fernandez.

Messenger, CRIT Online e-mail change

The e-mail address for the *Manataba Messenger* and to send feedback for the CRIT Tribal web site (www.critonline.com) has changed.

The new e-mail address for both entities is feedback@critonline.com. This address is the correct address for any submissions for the *Messenger* — including the photo contest and letters to the editor — and any questions related to the Tribal web site.

Intertribal Deaf Conference coming to San Carlos reservation in June

The 2006 Intertribal Deaf Conference will be held from June 14-17 at the San Carlos Apache Gold Convention Center on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

The Intertribal Deaf Council is believed to be the only North American organization for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing and late-deafened American Indian, Alaska Natives and First Nations individuals and their families.

The conference theme is Circle of Unity: Many Cultures Woven Together to Create One Future. The purpose of the conference is to bring together individuals to celebrate and share information.

For more information, contact Evelyn Opitz at Native_terpie2003@yahoo.com, or visit www.deafnative.com.

Career office funds higher education, plans for summer

By Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

Career Development Office

We are underway with the spring 2006 semester, funding higher education students in several different fields.

Applications for the Higher Education and Adult Vocational Training programs for academic year 2006-07 are now being accepted. The deadline is June 30 at 5 p.m.

Faxes will be accepted with the *exception of the official transcript*, which must be mailed from the most recent school attended and ordered with payment to the applicant. Students or parents will be required to use 2005 tax information to complete the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" for to obtain the "Student Aid Report" required as listed.

Higher Education

This program is designed for students who are pursuing an Associates (of Arts or Science), Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degree at an accredited college or university. Funding is available for part-time (less than 12 hours) and full-time. Funding is not available for correspondence coursework.

Higher education paperwork consists of:

- Higher Education application.
- Privacy Act statement (signatory page).
- Official transcript from last school attended.

Must have 2.00 cumulative grade point average (impending raise to 2.50) or score 45 or higher on the GED to be eligible.

- Acceptance letter to an accredited school.

- Copy of Student Aid Report.
- Financial Aids Needs Analysis (FANA).
- Certificate of Indian Blood (for first-time applicants).

Adult Vocational Training (AVT)

This program is for students who are pursuing a Certificate, Diploma or an Association of Applied/Occupation Science degree at an accredited junior college or training facility. Funding is only available for full-time students, since the program is limited to 24 months.

AVT paperwork consists of:

- AVT application.
- Physical exam and immunization records.
- Official transcript for last school attended.

Must have 2.00 cumulative grade point average (impending raise to 2.50) or score 45 or higher on the GED to be eligible.

- Acceptance letter from accredited school.
- Copy of Student Aid Report.
- Financial Aid Needs Analysis (FANA).
- Certificate of Indian Blood.

All Tribal member high school seniors of the class of 2006 are advised that this will be your last year to bring your GPA up to qualify for Fall 2006 funding for post-secondary education. Younger students are advised that it's not too soon to start planning for your college/technical career.

Youth Program Requirement

Summer is approaching, so it's time to plan for how your child will spend his or her time.

If your child is between the ages of 8 and 21

and academically motivated to attend an enrichment camp or leadership conference, he or she may qualify for tuition and/or stipend funds to help offset the cost of attendance.

General qualifications include:

- Must be a Tribal member.
- Must be 8-21 years of age.
- Must be enrolled in an elementary, middle, high school or post-secondary school.
- The program desired must be academic or leadership based.
- Must complete an application two weeks prior to departure with all supporting documents attached.

Summer school funds on indefinite hold

Funds for higher education summer school will not be available this year due to current budget constraints.

Since the summer of 1996, CRIT has made available summer aid depending on the availability of finances, and always exceeded the budget to allow maximum participation by qualifying students to benefit themselves academically and lessen their post-secondary career time frame.

Depending on the financial future of the Tribes, this optional extra-curricular program may once again be offered, with a deadline of April 30, to all participating Higher Education students.

For more information, call the Career Development Office at (800) 809-6207 or visit www.crit-cdo.com.

Get your message out in the

MANATABA MESSENGER

✓ Advertise in one of our issues and reach every member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes...at affordable rates.

✓ Submit a story idea or photo for publication.

✓ Write a letter to the editor and let us know what you think.

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Safeway store remodeling, shopping center expanding

Subway, Carvel, Cinnabon opening at Moovalya Plaza in coming months

The CRIT-owned Moovalya Plaza shopping center in Parker is undergoing some exciting changes and additions in the coming months.

Safeway, the anchor tenant at the center, has announced that it is going to significantly upgrade its Parker store, said Lyle Swenson, property manager and leasing agent for the plaza.

The Safeway upgrade will include several major new features, including:

- An overall upgrade to the store's features.
- Addition of a Starbucks coffee shop.
- Expansion and enhancement of the deli.
- Addition of a covered outdoor seating area for patrons of the Starbucks and the deli.

The upgrades mirror those done by Safeway stores at many of their other locations throughout the region.

Additionally, three new dining establishments will be opening their doors in the shopping center in the coming weeks.

Subway, Carvel and Cinnabon will all open their doors in a new building on "Pad C" at the center in the coming weeks.

Subway's submarine sandwiches will take up one portion of the new building, while Carvel, which is an ice cream shop, and Cinnabon, which sells gourmet cinnamon rolls, will take up the other portion of the new space.

It will be the first time that Carvel and Cinnabon have opened their doors in the Parker



This new building at Moovalya Plaza in Parker will host three new dining offerings for local residents — Subway, Carvel and Cinnabon. The Safeway store in the center is also being enhanced.

area. There are several Subway stores in communities nearby Parker, but none currently within the Town.

Swenson said that more expansion and other new developments are under negotiation for the center right now, and that announcements on further changes and enhancements at the center could come soon.

He also said that two more "pads," such as the one where the new stores are being built, are still available at the shopping center.

Moovalya Plaza is a tribally owned shopping center; therefore, the revenue generated by lease payments from tenants and through sales taxes from stores at the site are used to fund important Tribal programs.



Celebrate your graduate's achievements by recognizing them in the MANATABA MESSENGER

The *Manataba Messenger* will run graduation announcements for those CRIT members graduating from elementary school, junior high, high school or college. You can make sure your favorite graduate is recognized by sending info to:

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Route 1, Box 23-B

Parker, AZ 85344

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DEADLINE IS MAY 20!

Poston Monument architect Takata passes away at 71

Efforts underway to gain National Landmark Status for internment camp; would help with museum effort

By Jay Cravath

Poston Restoration Project

Ray Takata, a nationally known architect, died on February 17 of complications from a heart attack in Sacramento, California.

During World War II, he and his family were sent first to the Tule Lake Internment Camp and then to the Granda (Amache) Camp in Colorado.

According to an article in the Sacramento Bee, Ray Takata helped “revive a neighborhood of families who lost their homes and way of life to racism and forced relocation.”

Takata designed the beautiful Poston Memorial Monument in remembrance of the time when thousands of Japanese Americans

shared a home with the CRIT community on the reservation.

According to Takata, the concrete single column monument symbolizes “Unity of Spirit.” Thirty feet high and seven feet wide, the monument has a hexagonal-shaped base that represents a Japanese stone



Ray Takata

lantern. There are 12 small pillars for a sundial that circle and frame the monument.

Weeks of preparation went into the monument construction. Ted Kobata, a semi-retired construction contractor from Sacramento and Ron Moore, at the time (1992) CRIT’s Planning Director worked together to make Takata’s design a reality.

Local contractors provided heavy equipment, cranes, and labor to prepare the earth and assist in the process.

A 13-man work crew from Sacramento, in their late fifties to early seventies worked for nearly three weeks in the blistering desert heat to build the monument.

In 1995, the Sacramento group returned to Poston — with women this time — to build the kiosk. The kiosk, also designed by Takata, looks



The Poston Memorial Monument commemorates the 17,000 Japanese-Americans who were interned in Poston during World War II. It was designed by architect Ray Takata, who passed away in February at age 71.

like a large Japanese lantern.

As with the larger monument, the kiosk has bronze plates that detail the histories of CRIT and Poston.

The kiosk also provides a place for visitors to pick up brochures about Poston.

Over the years, thousands of tourists have visited the monument.

Takata devoted his time and energy to champion the preservation of historic buildings and sites. He believed it was important to preserve the past in order to build a better future.

Takata, born on Oct. 19, 1934, graduated from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo with a degree in architectural engineering in 1957 and received his state license in 1963.

National Landmark Status

Jeffrey Burton visited Poston last week to study the former Japanese American Internment camp with the goal of making Poston a National Historic Landmark.

Burton took photographs and did structural assessments on the various structures.

He is writing an application to give Poston a National Historic Landmark status, which will greatly assist in getting funding to build a museum. Members of the Poston Project committees met with the anthropologist to discuss his work at Poston and funding sources for the Project.

For more information, visit www.postonproject.org or call the CRIT Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

EVENTS,

From Page 5

American five-piece band playing oldies, 60s and 70s and a touch of country plus variety dance music.

- April 11-16 — Big Happy, featuring a female fronting a five-piece band playing classic rock and variety dance music.

- April 18-23 — Swift Kick, with a female fronting a three-piece band specializing in current dance music along with selections from the 50s through 90s.

- April 25-30 — Suite 33, a high-energy variety dance band featuring Top 40, classic rock, 50s and 60s and variety dance music.

- May 2-7 — Pilot, with a female fronting a

three-piece band playing rhythm & blues from the 50s and 60s, Top 40 dance, classic rock, old school and disco.

- May 9-14 — Clark County Express, a five-piece band specializing in southern and classic rock, country and dance music.

- May 16-21 — Fast Forward, a four-piece band for southern California. Their large and extensive repertoire includes classic dance tunes, 50s and 60s, disco, modern rock and alternative.

- May 23-28 — Swift Kick.

The Dig Lounge bands play six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday. Hours are from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Every Monday night in the Dig Lounge is Karaoke night with Billy Joe Preston from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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NEW E-MAIL address:
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web site, www.critonline.com

Efforts to start up Tribal charter school slowed down

Application for 2006-07 school year withdrawn; more work to be done on location, planning and construction

The Education Department withdrew its charter application for the 2006-2007 school year as time is needed to find a suitable site, develop a master plan and build the school.

Beginning next week, members of the staff will begin a location search with a target date of completion of the pre-design plan by October.

The Department is examining schools to partner with where the curriculum and management structure have facilitated academic excellence among their students.

Instead of reinventing the wheel, Four Nations will incorporate academic models to develop a program that will be rigorous, culturally appropriate and ensure the success of tribal students who attend.

It will begin as a kindergarten through 2nd grade elementary school, with grades added yearly. It would eventually be a kindergarten through 8th grade school.

The educational emphasis will be to integrate traditional tribal culture into the curriculum. It will also emphasize teaching practices that are most successful with American Indian students.

For more information, call the Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

Education Director: Keep kids in school

Tribal Councilman and Education Director Dennis Patch reminds parents and guardians to make sure their children get to school.

Students who attend regularly do better academically. Students who miss, get behind in their lessons and constantly struggle to keep up.

The result of missing too much school can mean repeating a grade. Research shows that students kept back are ten times more likely to drop out before finishing high school.

Parents and guardians of children with excess absences will be prosecuted in Tribal Court with jail time as one of the court-ordered options.

Hospital receives gaming revenue



Vickie Clark of La Paz Medical Center (left), Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. and County Supervisor Gene Fisher mark the presentation of \$50,000 in gaming funds to the La Paz Regional Hospital.

CRIT recently presented the La Paz Regional Hospital with a \$50,000 check from funds generated by the BlueWater Resort & Casino. The check was presented to the hospital on March 23, and represents revenue generated by gaming on the CRIT reservation that is required by state gaming compact to be shared with the community.

As part of CRIT's gaming compact with the State of Arizona, CRIT is required to provide a tribal contribution that is a certain percentage of gaming funds. Eighty-eight percent of those funds are mandated to go to the state. CRIT — and all tribes — have the option of keeping the other 12 percent of its tribal contribution in its local area rather than send it to Phoenix for state government.

The funds have accumulated over time. CRIT had waited until the funds accumulated enough to make a substantial difference for the hospital before cutting the \$50,000 check.

"It is important to the Tribal Council to

keep revenues from the BlueWater Resort & Casino in our community, and we want to make sure they were used in ways that would meet critical community needs," said Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.

"The La Paz Regional Hospital provides services to virtually every member of the greater Parker community, so we thought this would be an extremely beneficial use of these funds. The funds we contributed will be put to great use and help to save lives in our community. We are pleased and proud to be able to make a contribution to these efforts once again," he said.

CRIT has a long history of supporting the La Paz Regional Hospital. The hospital itself is located on Tribal land and serves both Tribal and non-Tribal members of the community. The funds are required by law to be directed to a local government. CRIT will direct the funds to La Paz County with an agreement that they will be earmarked for hospital improvements.

BIA tries to match CRIT members with fund dollars

Stepping up efforts to make sure members receive trust fund dollars

CRIT members may have thousands in the bank and not know it.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians was one of many booths at this year's La Paz County Fair. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians is an organization that connects tribal members to trust accounts that they were previously unaware of.

"Our main goal is to disperse these trusts to the rightful beneficiaries, but it is hard to do without the proper contact information."

**— Steven Loveless
BIA**

CRIT is one of 10 tribes that the organization is working with for this purpose.

Some of the trusts have hundreds of thousands of dollars in them — however it isn't easy to get the rightful owners access to these accounts due to the office's lack of personal contact information. The only information the department has on the

unclaimed trusts is first and last names. That is why it is important for members to contact the department and check the list for their name.

"Our main goal is to disperse all of the trusts to the rightful beneficiaries, but it is hard to do without the proper contact information," said Steven Loveless, fiduciary trust officer for BIA.

"It really is sad how much money is just sitting in the bank unclaimed. I am sure these funds could help many tribal members and their families," said Constance Zeyouma, a county technician for the department.

Both Loveless and Zeyouma were at the fair in attempts to reach out and contact trust account holders. They are hopeful that one-day all the money will be dispersed to the rightful recipients. To find out if your name is on the list, call the national Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 1 (888) 678.6836 ext. 0.

We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
If you have a question, story idea, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

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Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

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For more information, please call (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.

METH: Effort to establish CRIT drug court continues

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includes several key Tribal departments, Tribal council members and Tribal leaders such as Miss CRIT, Susan Ann Welsh.
David Harper, CRIT Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program Manager, said that the goal of the group is to find ways to deal with the meth problem in the community.
He said that the group decided from the beginning that education of CRIT youth was going to be a key to their success.
"We decided we need to look at young kids in school and educate them about the dangers of meth use," Harper said.
Harper said that for example, CRIT has a high rate of mothers and babies testing positive for meth use right at birth.
"We will be developing educational programs to tell parents about the dangers of meth use as well," he said.
The Tribal Meth Coalition meets on the last Monday of each month at noon at the CRIT Substance Abuse Program Office. The meetings are open to the public.

CRIT's efforts to establish a family drug court are also continuing.
The family drug court would provide another option for CRIT in its efforts to deal with meth use and other drug use. Its purpose would be to facilitate the efforts of families to recover from the impacts of drug use and ensure participation in rehabilitation programs.
CRIT recently received a planning grant that will pay for training for eight CRIT staff members so that they have the expertise needed to start the court and oversee its operations.
The next step, besides participating in the training sessions, is to apply for an "implementation grant," which would fund the actual start-up of the family drug court.
"This grant gives us the opportunity to educate more of the juvenile justice system providers," said Lola Wood, CRIT Deputy Attorney General. "It's an opportunity to train more of our staff and improve our chances of getting the implementation grant."
A notice that applications are being accepted for the implementation grant should be posted in the next couple of months.

FIRES,

From Page 1

rains begin in mid-summer.
Little said that the subject of closures on the CRIT reservation has not come up as of yet. Last year, significant portions of the reservation were ordered closed by the Tribal Council to lessen the danger of wildfires that would have been caused by man.
However, she said discussions about closures are likely to take place in the coming weeks, and some areas of Arizona — such as national forest areas — have already been closed to the public.
The CRIT Fire Department provides tips

for residents looking to protect their homes.
Residents are also encouraged to schedule an inspection or get more information on fire safety by calling (928) 662-4388, or by visiting the CRIT Fire web page at www.critonline.com.
• Clear dead brush, grasses and weeds from around houses, outbuildings, and recreational vehicles. Leave only plants and trees.
• Remove leaves from roofs and gutters.
• Remove "ladder fuels" — prune tree limbs so the lowest is 6-10 feet from the ground, so that fires can't jump into trees.
• Be careful when disposing of smoking materials, and be cautious in using open flame.
• Trim dead limbs over garages, and trim tree limbs with in 10 feet of chimneys or vents.
• Check smoke detectors in homes to make sure they are working.



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